



## Virginia Department of Planning and Budget **Economic Impact Analysis**

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**18 VAC 150-20 Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine**  
**Department of Health Professions**  
**Town Hall Action/Stage: 5703 / 9231**  
May 5, 2021

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### **Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation**

The Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board) proposes to amend the *Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine* to specify that a degree in “veterinary nursing” from an accredited program in veterinary technology may be accepted in satisfaction of the education required to gain licensure by either examination or endorsement as a veterinary technician. Also, for veterinary technician licensure by endorsement, the Board proposes to amend the regulation to specify that it would accept the experience of a person who has been practicing in another jurisdiction as a veterinary nurse.

### **Background**

According to the Department of Health Professions (DHP), several accredited veterinary technology programs have changed the name of the degree awarded from “veterinary technology” to “veterinary nurse.”<sup>1</sup> It has merely been a change in nomenclature, without changing the contents of the educational programs or the examination taken by graduates.<sup>2</sup>

### **Estimated Benefits and Costs**

DHP has already implemented these clarifications in practice, and accepts a veterinary nursing degree for veterinary technician licensure, and the experience of a person who has been practicing in another jurisdiction as a veterinary nurse for veterinary technician licensure by

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=Meeting\33\31189\Minutes\\_DHP\\_31189\\_v1.pdf](https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=Meeting\33\31189\Minutes_DHP_31189_v1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See the Purpose section the Agency Background Document:  
[https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=33\5703\9231\AgencyStatement\\_DHP\\_9231\\_v1.pdf](https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=33\5703\9231\AgencyStatement_DHP_9231_v1.pdf)

endorsement.<sup>3</sup> Thus, beyond preventing potential confusion among readers of the regulation, the proposal would not have substantial impact.

### **Businesses and Other Entities Affected**

The proposed amendments potentially affect readers of the regulation. Also, the proposal particularly pertains to people who are interested in becoming licensed as a veterinary technician in the Commonwealth who have or are considering obtaining a degree in veterinary nursing, and people who have experience practicing as a veterinary nurse in another jurisdiction. According to DHP, thus far it has received fewer than five applications from persons with a “veterinary nurse” designation. However, as more programs adopt that title, this number is likely to increase.

The proposal does not produce any costs.

### **Small Businesses<sup>4</sup> Affected:**

The proposed amendments do not appear adversely affect small businesses.

### **Localities<sup>5</sup> Affected<sup>6</sup>**

The proposed amendments do not disproportionately affect any particular localities. The proposed amendments do not introduce costs for local governments

### **Projected Impact on Employment**

The proposed amendments do not affect total employment.

### **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

The proposal does not substantively affect the use and value of private property. The proposal does not affect costs related to the development of real estate.

### **Legal Mandates**

**General:** The Department of Planning and Budget has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia (Code) and Executive Order 14 (as amended, July 16, 2018). Code § 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses determine the public benefits and costs of the proposed amendments. Further the report should include but not be limited to: (1) the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the proposed regulatory action would apply, (2) the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, (3) the projected number of persons and employment

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<sup>3</sup> Source: DHP

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia, small business is defined as “a business entity, including its affiliates, that (i) is independently owned and operated and (ii) employs fewer than 500 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than \$6 million.”

<sup>5</sup> “Locality” can refer to either local governments or the locations in the Commonwealth where the activities relevant to the regulatory change are most likely to occur.

<sup>6</sup> § 2.2-4007.04 defines “particularly affected” as bearing disproportionate material impact.

positions to be affected, (4) the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and (5) the impact on the use and value of private property.

**Adverse impacts:** Pursuant to Code § 2.2-4007.04(D): In the event this economic impact analysis reveals that the proposed regulation would have an adverse economic impact on businesses or would impose a significant adverse economic impact on a locality, business, or entity particularly affected, the Department of Planning and Budget shall advise the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance within the 45-day period.

If the proposed regulatory action may have an adverse effect on small businesses, Code § 2.2-4007.04 requires that such economic impact analyses include: (1) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the proposed regulation, (2) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the proposed regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents, (3) a statement of the probable effect of the proposed regulation on affected small businesses, and (4) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed regulation. Additionally, pursuant to Code § 2.2-4007.1, if there is a finding that a proposed regulation may have an adverse impact on small business, the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules shall be notified.